



H.R. 6296 – To extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6296 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) on June 18, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on House Administration, but was never considered.

H.R. 6296 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6296 amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) to extend the authority of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to impose civil money penalties through December 31, 2013. This authority is currently set to expire on December 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The FEC currently has the authority under Federal law to require persons to pay civil money penalties if found to be in violation of FEC procedure. These penalties are based on the severity of the violation, any previous violations, and other appropriate factors. Persons found to be in violation of FEC procedure are allowed to appeal the decision to the Commission and may obtain a review of the FEC's determination in U.S. district court.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) increased disclosure of Federal campaign contributions, and has been amended several times since its enactment. In 1974, the Act was amended to create the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The FEC is a regulatory agency which regulates Federal campaign finance regulation. The FEC is governed by six Commissioners, equally divided between political parties.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6296 as of July 14, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.